

but certainly so they will have an opportunity to have that education so that they can participate to the fullest possible extent in American society, and certainly in the American economic system, and yet what we see in the illustrative list of cuts being proposed by the Republicans is what could cost California some \$266 million in student aid that otherwise would be flowing to those students.

Mr. Speaker, what we heard from the people testifying was in some instances this would mean that they could no longer continue school. Others would have to reduce the number of classes they take and try to increase the number of hours that they are already working today, which means they would have to be in school for a longer period of time and then borrow more money because they were in school for an extra semester or an extra quarter to achieve their degree. We heard from such individuals as May Wu who was at Stanford Law School. She said,

After I graduate, my monthly payments for school loans alone will be approximately \$1,000 . . . it would have been substantially higher, and therefore beyond my reach, if not for the availability of federally-subsidized low-interest loans.

Michael Rodriguez told us, as he filled out his application, he never knew that student loans existed. He was a 9-year veteran of the Marine Corps, and somebody told him while he was in Kuwait, while he was fighting in Desert Storm, that he filled out his application in the foxhole, and he says,

I give thanks every day that programs like financial aid exist for students like myself . . . Financial aid has become more important now than ever before as we face proposed [State] cuts in education.

For me, financial aid has allowed me to achieve my goals, for which I am thankful. Now, with one semester left before I graduate, I work with high school students so that they might be able to have chances that were afforded to me through the help of financial aid.

He is now telling other young people how they might secure a college education.

The parent of Michael Garibaldi, Ronelle Garibaldi, talked about what this meant to her family, how she and her husband sat around the table and tried to work out the finances so that their son could continue in school. She said,

We hold our breath until the envelope comes with Michael's award package and don't start breathing again until we've sat down with paper and pencil to once again determine if he can return in the fall.

I am often told I have a passion for financial aid. While that is true, it goes much deeper than that. Actually, I am a mother with a passion for opportunity for a higher education for my children, as well as all children.

That is what is at risk with the proposals by the Republicans to slash student loans so they can give tax breaks to people earning over \$100,000 who do not necessarily need it and certainly give no indication that they want it when they understand this is the kind

of penalty that is paid by America's young people and families.

#### WE NEED TO CUT TAXES FOR THE AMERICAN FAMILY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, the minority leader, a Democrat, made an interesting statement the other day. Referring to the tax cut bill that we will consider this week he said, "This issue," meaning taxes, "may be the best expression of the differences between the parties," and you know he is probably right. Republicans understand that the American people are overtaxed. We Republicans understand that the tax burden that the Government imposes on families and on senior citizens is becoming simply intolerable. We understand, and we are taking a first step to reduce that burden, to reduce taxes. That is a big difference from the last Congress when the Democrats were in charge, when President Clinton was able to ram through the biggest tax increase in American history.

Well, there is a new majority here now, and I say, "You're right, Mr. Minority Leader." This new majority leader does seek to cut taxes. We are tired of seeing our Government throwing money around and expecting working families to pick up the tab.

The most devastating change in the Federal tax system over my lifetime has been that Government has shifted the tax burden so heavily onto the backs of working families. The tax code now discriminates against families. It penalizes marriage, and it burdens parents trying to care for their own children.

In fact, during my lifetime, and I'm 41 years old—actually 42 now—the Federal income tax burden on a family of four has increased by over 300 percent as a share of family income. That is outrageous. It threatens the very foundation of the American dream. It denies opportunity to people trying to work their way up.

The Government has been imposing a hidden tax increase on families every year by holding down the exemption that parents can take for dependent children. Right now a lot of you at home are probably working on your income taxes or thinking about it, and you probably know, in looking at the taxes all this year, that you can claim \$2,450, almost \$2,500 per person in your family as an income tax exemption. Well, if that rate had gone up to match inflation, that exemption would now be \$8,000, \$8,000, and we can only claim \$2,450.

Mr. Speaker, that is just not fair, but, despite that fact, there are some in this body who would begrudge parents even a \$500 per child tax credit, and that is sad, and they call us mean spirited.

Well, we ought to remember that it is not our money. We are proposing allowing families to keep a little bit more of the money that they themselves earn. We should not act like it is a gift or a handout; it is not. It is simple fairness.

So, too, is the rollback we propose of the 1993 recordbreaking tax increase on senior citizens. Seniors were unfairly singled out for punitive treatment. We are going to undo that, and we are going to provide relief from the unwise earnings limit that insidiously taxes seniors who choose to continue working.

We are also going to reduce the marriage tax penalty. We have just been through a long debate over outdated welfare policies that tear families apart, and we voted for reform there. Let us reform the tax system's ridiculous marriage penalty as well.

Now opponents of tax reform who do not think that the American people are overtaxed argue that you cannot have take both tax relief and a balanced budget. Quite frankly, some of them do not seem to want either goal, judging from their votes, but I believe that we have got to send a message that Government just cannot continue to increase spending at the rate that it has. Government spending is out of control. That does not mean that taxes are too low. Quite the reverse. We just spend too much up here in Washington.

We also need to reduce capital gains taxes so that we can create more jobs. There are still a lot of people in this country who need jobs. If we cut capital gains taxes, that will mean more jobs for Americans. The old class-warfare arguments for keeping capital gains rates high will not wash anymore. Productive investment, whether in a home or in job-creating business is something that everyone should want to encourage, and nearly 60 percent of capital gains tax filers have adjusted gross incomes under \$50,000, so it is not just tax breaks for the wealthy.

So, please, let us not try to divide Americans up and pit one group against another anymore. We are all in this together, and, as a people, we are overtaxed. We need to cut taxes, we need to cut taxes on the American family, and we are going to do that this week.

#### AMERICANS WANT TAX CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania [Mr. FOX] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOX of Pennsylvania. I want to continue the remarks that were made by my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. CHABOT]. I think he well elucidates the reasons we need to have the tax credits and the tax cuts adopted here in the House this week. You know, looking at what the American people want, Mr. Speaker, they want three things. They want to see tax cuts, spending cuts, and deficits reduction,